

MEDICAL AND DEMOGRAPHIC DATA  
IN THE FORTHCOMING  
*ATLAS OF HAWAII*

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**H**EALTH is a topic which receives great attention in an atlas\* of the State of Hawaii now being prepared by the Department of Geography of the University of Hawaii. The 200-page volume, nine inches by 12 inches in size and in full color throughout, is scheduled to be published by the University Press of Hawaii late in 1973. Materials for the text, maps, and other illustrations are being compiled by 40 contributors, most of whom are with the University of Hawaii and state agencies. A small cartographic staff is working full-time to design and draft the atlas for printing.

Medical data are dealt with in two sections. In the population section, maps and charts include statistics of natality and mortality. Mortality is shown by time (1910-1970), cause, and age, but the small population of the state (770,000), and the fact that 90% of its people reside in and around the city of Honolulu, make it impractical to compute mortality rates for geographical areas smaller than the eight principal islands. Morbidity statistics appear in a separate health section.

Data obtained from the Health Surveillance Survey (part of the National Health Survey) and other information obtained from the Hawaii State Department of Health have been presented in a series of maps showing such things as the incidence of acute diseases, arthritis, rheumatism, and tuberculosis; the numbers of physicians; levels of income and education; and extent of health insurance coverage (all by judicial districts). These maps give an indication of the "quality of life" in terms of health. While Hawaii compares favorably with the rest of the United States in vital statistics and in statistics of disability

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\*University of Hawaii, Department of Geography: *Atlas of Hawaii*. Honolulu, University Press of Hawaii. In press.

and injury, there are wide geographic variations within the islands in the quality of the environment: for example, in such things as housing and in the disposal of solid wastes. One chart in the health section compares infant mortality rates for selected years for those countries in the Pacific basin that report to the World Health Organization. Hawaii is shown to have one of the lowest rates (16.2 per 1,000 live births in 1971) in the Pacific area, comparable to the rates of Japan, Australia, and New Zealand. Other maps and charts will show the distribution of physicians as a ratio of population, the distribution of hospitals by type and number of beds, and the distribution of nurses and allied health personnel.

The *Atlas of Hawaii* is intended to be more than a book of maps. About one third of the atlas will consist of supplementary text aimed at interpreting the maps and charts or incorporating topics which do not lend themselves readily to mapping, such as Hawaii's insects and marine invertebrates. Color and black-and-white photographs will be used extensively in such sections as those on birds, fish, plants, and landforms. The design of the book emphasizes color, especially the blues and greens which characterize the islands.

A major section in the atlas is a series of reference maps covering the eight principal islands and the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands which together comprise the Hawaiian chain. These reference maps show all settlements, all named physical features, roads, topography, streams, and coastal features such as reefs. Special attention is being given to the correct spelling of Hawaiian names and to the inclusion of pronunciation marks. A gazetteer of all names will accompany the reference maps.

Other sections deal with thematic topics. For example, the natural environment is treated under geology, soils, climate, ocean, water, plants, and mammals. The people are presented in sections on archaeology, modern history, demography, social and economic characteristics, languages, and religions. Hawaii's multiethnic community with its variety of cultural traditions gives special interest to these sections. Still other sections deal with the economy, land tenure, agriculture, sources of food, manufacturing, tourism, transport, arts, and recreation.

Each section is in charge of a principal contributor, but numerous assistants, also voluntary workers, have helped to assemble materials, many of which have never been mapped before. The geological map,

for example, is the first to present all islands on one map by means of the same classification. It is hoped that the *Atlas of Hawaii* will help to fill a large gap in the current geographical literature of the islands. It is aimed at a wide audience and has as its keynote the diversity of the Hawaiian people and of their environment.